

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for evaluating the efficacy in the body of a mammal of a therapeutic agent which acts to stimulate apoptosis comprises:

obtaining a sample of a body tissue in which tumor cells are present or a body fluid from a mammal to be treated with the therapeutic agent which acts to stimulate apoptosis, wherein the tissue or fluid can contain a 17 kDa fragment of Caspase 3, the fragment obtained by specific cleavage of Caspase 3 *in vivo*;

assaying the sample to determine the amount of the 17 kDa fragment of cleaved Caspase 3 present;

administering the therapeutic agent to the mammal;

obtaining a second sample of said body tissue or body fluid from said mammal; and

assaying the second sample to determine the amount of said 17 kDa fragment of cleaved Caspase 3 present;

wherein an increase in the amount of the 17 kDa fragment measured in the second sample over the amount measured in the first sample indicates apoptosis stimulation and efficacy of the therapeutic agent.